
Short Communication

Lectotypification of *Neckera hymenodonta* Müll. Hal. (Neckeraceae, Bryophyta)

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Müller (1851) described *Neckera hymenodonta* from Tasmania (“Van Diemen’s Land”). In the protologue it was compared with “*N. pinnata*”, which is here regarded as an orthographic error for *N. pennata* Hedw., since there is no taxon known with the former name. The name *N. hymenodonta* was synonymised with *N. pennata* by Sainsbury (1952), and it remained in taxonomic oblivion (cf. Beever et al. 1992, Fife 1995, Streimann & Klazenga 2002) until reinstated as a distinct species and described in detail as well as illustrated in line drawings by Ji & Enroth (2008). Some of the morphological distinctions between the two species are found in the peristome, as indeed noted by Müller (1851), but there are also more easily observed ones, such as the presence of paraphyllia in *N. hymenodonta* and their absence in *N. pennata* (Ji & Enroth 2008).

Carl Müller’s personal herbarium was destroyed in Berlin in 1943 (e.g. Isoviita & Ochyra 1990). In connection with M.-C. Ji’s PhD-thesis, which is a revision of *Neckera* in Asia and Australasia, type material of Müller’s *N. hymenodonta* was sought in numerous herbaria worldwide, but unsuccessfully. In late 2008, two duplicates of the syntype material of *N. hymenodonta*, as cited in the protologue, were examined. As far as is known, they are the only remaining duplicates of the type material, so one of them is here designated as the lectotype. It should be noted that, nevertheless, both these specimens remain isotypes.

Neckera hymenodonta Müll. Hal., *Botanische Zeitung (Berlin)* 9: 564 (1851).

Type citation: [Australia, Tasmania] Van Diemen’s Land, ad truncos arborum fruticeti densi infra Bek-river [sic!] prope Launceston. Coll. No. 746 [all specimens reported in Müller’s (1851) work were collected in 1850 by Samuel Mossman].

Lectotype (designated here): “*Neckera hymenodonta* C. Muller On trees in a brushwood. S°. Esk River. Van Dieman’s Land. Collected by Samuel Mossman. No. 746. 1850” (NY-Mitten!; Fig. 1).

Isotype: “*Neckera hymenodonta* C. Muller Bot. Zeit. 1851, p. 564. On trees amongst brushwood S. Esk River, Tasmania. Mossman 746” (NY-Mitten!; Fig. 2).

The duplicate selected as the lectotype has somewhat more material and has an original label of Samuel Mossman’s herbarium. Both duplicates have William Mitten’s herbarium stamp on the label. Clearly, the name “Bek-river” in the protologue is a misreading by Carl Müller of the hand-written name Esk, which is a river in NE Tasmania.

The newly discovered type material, although in good condition, does not add any new information of the morphological variation of *N. hymenodonta*, because it is quite a common species especially in New Zealand. Over thirty representative specimens were cited by Ji & Enroth (2008).

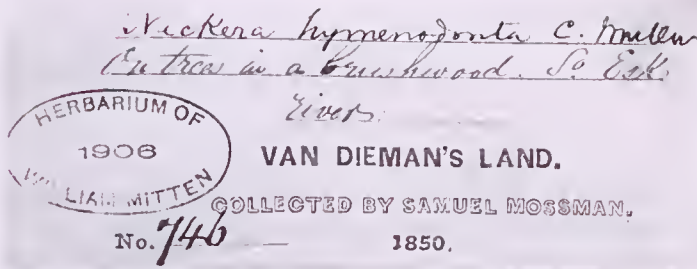


Fig. 1. Packet label of lectotype of *Neckera hymenodonta* Müll. Hal.

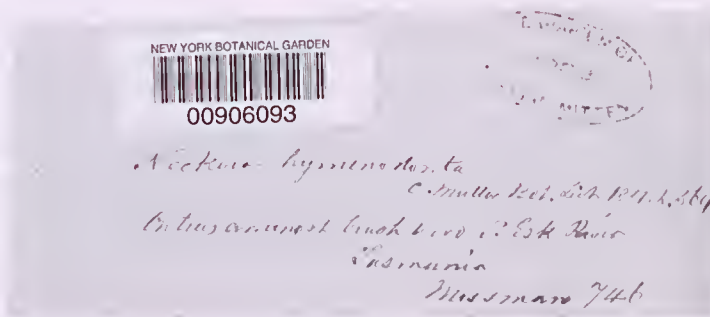


Fig. 2. Packet label of isotype of *Neckera hymenodonta* Müll. Hal.

Acknowledgments

I thank William R. Buck (NY) who informed me of the presence of two duplicates of syntype material of *Neckera hymenodonta* and I thank the Director and staff of NY for making these materials available for study.

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